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SOURCE Informativni prirucnik o Jugoslaviji, Book 2, Sec 4-6, 1952.THE BELGRADE SEISMOLOGY INSTITUTE

[The following report is based on an article in Informativni prirucnik o Jugoslaviji (Information Handbook on Yugoslavia), which has been issued in sections since late 1948 by the Yugoslav Directorate for Information.]

The first seismological study in Yugoslavia was made by J. M. Zujovic, professor of geology in the Advanced School, on the destructive earthquake in Resava in 1893. He organized a systematic collection of data on the earthquake, went into the field with a team of experts, and published a report of his study. Seismological service in Yugoslavia began to diminish in the last years of the 19th century. However, at the beginning of the 20th century, when destructive earthquakes occurred in the vicinity of Vranje in 1904, in Podrinje in 1905, and in Radjevina in 1906, Dr Svetolik M. Radovanovic, professor of geology, renewed seismological service in Serbia. In 1906, the Faculty of Philosophy assigned him the task of organizing a new seismological service in Serbia. Consequently, in the same year, the Seismological Section of the Geology Institute of Belgrade University was founded and began seismological studies of the surrounding area. The best seismological instruments were obtained, and a modern building was erected in Belgrade.

The development of the International Seismological Association and the extent of Serbian seismological investigations led to the development of the Seismological Section into the Seismological Institute of Belgrade University. Immediately after its founding, work was begun on a seismological catalog of all earthquakes that have occurred in Yugoslavia. In the fall of 1907, the First International Seismology Congress was held in The Hague, and was attended by representatives of the Seismological Institute. The congress published the chief functions of the Yugoslav seismological service as follows:

1. Isolate individual epicentral areas and study and establish their seismological characteristics in Yugoslavia.

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2. Establish the active seismological zones (faults) in Yugoslavia.
3. Tie in the results obtained to the geological nature of the terrain and apply them practically.

After World War I, seismological work was considerably expanded, but, because of insufficient staff, evaluation of collected data lagged more and more. When the International Seismological Congress was held in Stockholm in 1930, several seismological studies on Yugoslavia and other parts of the Balkan Peninsula were submitted to the congress. This moved the congress to request the Yugoslav government to place the necessary personnel at the disposal of the Seismological Institute in Belgrade for the purpose of continuing such work on Yugoslavia and the Balkan Peninsula. It was 5 years before the institute finally had the required personnel, and the Seismological Institute of the Ministry of Education was established.

During this time and afterward, a number of special studies and monographs were prepared, most of which were published in publications of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and other establishments. The most modern seismological instruments have been in operation continuously since the founding of the institute; during the war, work was confined to the operation of the instruments and arranging the data collected, while all work in the field stopped.

From the liberation until today, the work of the Seismological Institute has been mainly concentrated on Serbia. With the exception of Croatia, no seismological work has been done in the other republics. Thus there has been a break in the continuity of the macroseismic study of Yugoslav territory.

The Five-Year Plan called for restoring seismological service throughout Yugoslavia, and for the erection of seismological stations in Ljubljana, Sarajevo, Skopje, and Titograd, the work of which would be directed by the institute in Belgrade. The Yugoslav Seismological Service was established in July 1948. The Yugoslav Seismological Institute was proclaimed of general state importance, and in January 1951 was put under the jurisdiction of Serbia.

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